THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) Raw sugar can be imported by sugar factories against Advance License under the existing EXIM policy as per their commercial prudence. While it is expected that availability of sugar will be sufficient to meet domestic demand in 2004-05, Government have facilitated import of raw sugar under Advance License to augment carry forward stock of sugar for the sugar year, 2005-06.

FAQ norms for paddy procurement from Orissa

1882. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have relaxed the Fair Average Quality (FAQ) norms for paddy procurement by 5 per cent for the last Kharif Season;

(b) whether both the private agencies and Government are procuring the damaged paddy from the farmers of Orissa at the minimum support price fixed by the Centre; and

(c) if so, the total amount of paddy procured by Government and other agencies by the end of December, 2004 from the farmers of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has relaxed quality specifications for paddy procurement upto 5 per cent against the limit of 3 per cent with value cut for refractions (i) damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevilled grains and (ii) immature, shrunken and shrivelled grains in respect of Orissa for Kharif Marketing Season 2004-05.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Paddy is being procured as per the relaxed specification norms at the prices fixed by the Government. By the end of December, 2004, a total quantity of 7,17,413 MT of paddy has been procured by Government and other procuring agencies from the farmers of Orissa.